THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Undertakings have been exporting their products for several years. Products, factories where these would be manufactured, and the target markets have been identified.

Promotion age of Army Hawaldars

1383. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that promotion age in Defence services has been fixed at 42 years in case of Hawaldar's cadre;

(b) whether it is also a fact that with the increase in retirement age, the promotion age has not been consequently increased and is having a demoralising impact;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the promotion age in the larger interest of defence personnel particularly the hawaldar cadre;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Consequent upon enhancement in ages of retirement, maximum age for promotion from Havaldar to Naib Subedar has been increased from 42 to 44 years for all categories except Clerks General Duty, Clerks General Duty (Staff Duty) and Storekeeper (Storeman Technical), ammunition (technicians) examiners, personal assistants (Army Service Corps) and instructors in Army Education Corps in whose case it has been increased from 44 to 46 years. Therefore, the question of any demoralising effect does not arise.